

REMARKS

Claims 4-9 and 13-15 are pending in the application. Claims 4-6 have been amended. Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the pending application in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that the Examiner has still not indicated whether the drawings filed on March 23, 2004 are acceptable. Applicants again respectfully request the Examiner to confirm the acceptability of the drawings in the next Office communication.

Applicants also note that the Examiner has still not acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority, or receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, Japanese Application No. 2003-092203, which was filed on March 28, 2003. Applicants again request that the Examiner acknowledge, in the next Office communication, Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-9 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Dygert (U.S. Patent No. 6,864,641). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 4 recites an illumination apparatus which includes, inter alia, a power source device and an illumination head. The power source device is configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents, and includes an input terminal. The illumination head includes a current detection resistor that detects a current flowing through a power supply circuit, at least one light emitting device, and an output terminal which connects to the input terminal of the power source device and outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistor. A resistance value of the current detection resistor generates a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to each light emitting device.

Applicants' independent claim 5 recites an illumination head which includes, inter alia, at least one light emitting device connected to a power supply circuit, a current detection resistor that detects a current flowing in the power supply circuit, and an output terminal that outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistor. A resistance value of the current detection resistor generates a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to each light emitting device. The illumination head is connectable to a power source device configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents.

Applicants' independent claim 6 recites a power source device that supplies power to an illumination head which includes, inter alia, an input terminal. The illumination head includes a current detection resistor that detects a current flowing to a power supply circuit in which at least one light emitting device is connected, and an output terminal that outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistor. A resistance value of the current detection resistor generates a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to each light emitting device. The input terminal connects to the output terminal, and the power source device is configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents.

Dygart discloses various embodiments of an LED circuit (100, 200, 300, 400 and 500) which includes an LED array 102 and a current regulating circuit 104. See Figures 1-5 of Dygart. Each current regulating circuit 104 includes at least one resistor R20, and some embodiments include additional resistors (e.g., resistors R21, R22). See Figures 1-5 of Dygart.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Dygart's resistors R20-R22 correspond to the current detection resistors recited in Applicants' independent claims 4-6. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that Dygert's resistors R20-R22 are not part of an illumination head, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 4-6. Rather, Applicants submit that Dygert's resistors R20-R22 are part of the current regulating circuit 104, which is separate from Dygert's illumination head (LED array 102). See, e.g., Figures 1-5 of Dygert.

Applicants further submit that Dygert fails to disclose or suggest that the illumination head (LED array 102) includes an output terminal which outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistors (resistors R20-R22), or disclose or suggest a power source device having an input terminal which connects to such output terminal, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 4-6.

Applicants further submit that Dygert fails to disclose or suggest a power source device which is configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents, as recited in Applicants' independent claims 4-6. In this regard, Applicants submit that Dygert's resistors R20-R22 are part of the current regulating circuit 104 (not part of an exchangeable illumination head, as in Applicants' claimed inventions), and their resistances are fixed. Thus, assuming that one could replace Dygert's illumination head (LED array 102) with another illumination head having a different rated current, Applicants submit that Dygert's current regulating circuit 104 would not be capable of supplying the new illumination head with its rated current, because the resistors R20-R22 are fixed and their resistance values are not designed to generate a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to the LEDs in the LED array 102.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Dygert fails to disclose or suggest an illumination apparatus which includes a power source device, configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents,

and including an input terminal, and an illumination head including a current detection resistor and an output terminal which connects to the input terminal of the power source device and outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistor, where a resistance value of the current detection resistor generates a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to each light emitting device of the illumination head, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 4.

Applicants also submit that Dygert fails to disclose or suggest an illumination head which includes a current detection resistor and an output terminal that outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistor, where a resistance value of the current detection resistor generates a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to each light emitting device of the illumination head, and the illumination head is connectable to a power source device configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 5.

Applicants further submit that Dygert fails to disclose or suggest a power source device which includes an input terminal that connects to an output terminal of an illumination head, where the illumination head includes a current detection resistor and an output terminal that connects to the input terminal of the power source device and outputs a voltage drop across the current detection resistor, a resistance value of the current detection resistor generates a voltage drop equal to a predetermined reference potential when a rated current is supplied to each light emitting device of the illumination head, and the power source device is configured to provide a rated current to a plurality of different exchangeable illumination heads having different rated currents, as recited in Applicants' independent claim 6.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Dygert does not anticipate the inventions recited in Applicants' independent claims 4-6, and thus, respectfully request that

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the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection, and allow claims 4-6.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 7-9 and 13-15 are in condition for allowance at least in view of their dependency from claims 4-6.

Based on the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

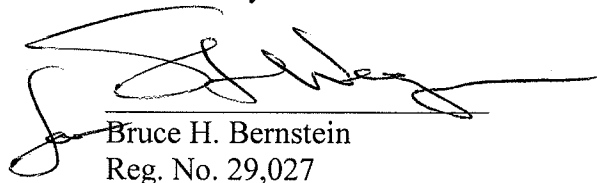
Entry and consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the present application and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate. Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present invention in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should an extension of time be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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